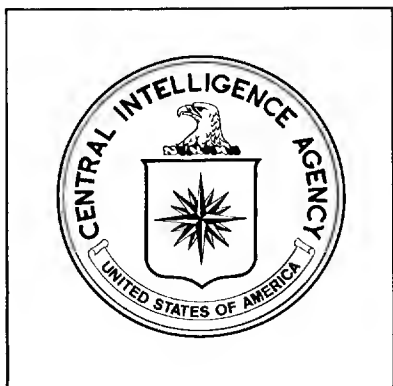


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Czechoslovak Repression Under Fire
from Italian Communist Party

Renewed tensions between the Czechoslovak and Italian Communist parties may create further problems in the already troubled preparations for a European conference of Communist parties. The bilateral squabble has never been far below the surface since the Husak regime came to power in 1969.

Unita, the Italian party's official organ, on Tuesday blasted Prague for mistreating "scores of its intellectuals" and charged the Husak leadership with violating "one of the foundations of socialist democracy"--freedom of culture. The move was ostensibly made in response to the "tragic letter" that Karel Kosik, a Marxist philosopher in Prague, sent to Jean Paul Sartre. Kosik's letter described the increased repression that has followed Husak's speech on April 16 condemning Dubcek and warning dissidents.

Kosik's letter was made available to Western news services in late May, when another commentary in *Unita* described the situation in Czechoslovakia as "extremely grave." The Italian party's decision to replay the Kosik letter and to increase polemics with Prague at this time may be tied to the preparations of a European party conference.

The Italian party has played a leading role in opposing Soviet attempts to formulate a binding program, and several sessions of the drafting commission in East Berlin have thus far failed to hammer out documents acceptable to all parties.

Meanwhile, the Italian party denies that it has received a letter from Dubcek reportedly requesting that the issue of Prague's repression be

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placed on the conference agenda. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Italian, British, Spanish, and Yugoslav parties have already warned Moscow that they would find it hard to participate in the conclave if Prague takes harsh measures against Dubcek or his followers. Spanish party leader Carrillo has even indicated that he would support the Dubcek position should it be raised at the conference.
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Changes Noted in Local Party Organizations

Changes in Soviet personnel at the first and second secretary level of local party organizations continue. This third report reveals that the rate of local shifts has neither decreased nor increased significantly since our last report (*Staff Notes*, June 4). The following shifts have occurred:

RSFSR:

June 25: Fedor Petrovich Burmistrov, 1st secretary of Karachayevo-Cherkessk Oblast, was transferred to other work, and was replaced by V. S. Murakhovsky (formerly secretary of the Stavropol Kraykom).

July 11: Vitaly Ivanovich Vorotnikov, 1st secretary of Voronezh Oblast, was named 1st deputy chairman of RSFSR Council of Ministers, and was replaced by Vadim Nikolayevich Ignatov (formerly 2nd secretary of Leningrad Obkom).

Tadzhikistan:

April 24: Aleksandr Ivanovich Shitov, 2nd secretary of Tadzhikistan, was replaced by Yury Ivanovich Polukarov (formerly a sector head in the CC, CPSU Organizational-Party Work Department). On May 13, Shitov, who is a candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, was appointed 1st deputy chairman of the USSR People's Control Committee.

Ukraine:

April 23: Aleksandr Ivanovich Ishchenko, 1st secretary of Sumy Oblast, was relieved under criticism and replaced by Ivan Grigoryevich Grintsov (formerly secretary of Donetsk Obkom).

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Uzbek:

May 13: Ivan Petrovich Dryzhak, 2nd secretary of Khorezm Oblast, was transferred to other work and was replaced three days later by Boris Anatolyvich Novitsky (formerly 2nd secretary of the Kara-Kalpak Obkom).

May 16: V. V. Kislov was named to replace Novitsky as 2nd secretary of Kara-Kalpak ASSR.
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